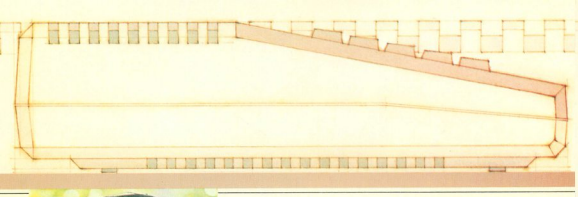
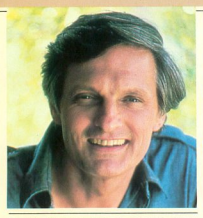
paleotronic

Atari XL
Coleco Adam
New Tandys
Synths and
More!

Xmas

1983





Computer enthusiast Alan Alda uses the ATARI 800XL Computer System. Alda reports: "It's going all the time!"

Introducing the Atari® XL Home Computers: We made them smart enough to know you're only human.

The new ATARI XL Home Computers prove that you can blend state-of-the-art technology with good old fashioned friendliness. What's a friendly computer? For one thing, it's a computer that speaks your language. Both the new ATARI 600XL™ and the new ATARI 800XL™ Computers come with a built-in BASIC language that uses the same simple English you use to converse with the rest of the world.

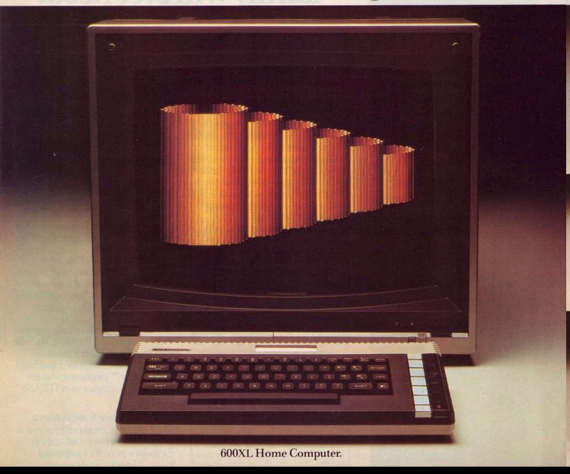
Press the HELP button, not the panic button.

Every ATARI XL Computer comes with a HELP key. Something you won't find on any other home computer. New programs are becoming available that let you use this key for helpful "prompts" when you're unsure of what to do next. Press another special key and your ATARI XL automatically performs a self-diagnostic check—a feature that can save you a needless trip to one of our more than 1,000 ATARI Service™Centers.

The ATARI 600XL: It Gets Smarter As You Do.

With 16K of memory, the inexpensive ATARI 600XL can

As your experience grows so can your Atari 600XL.



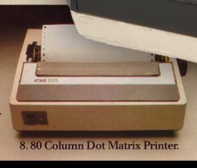
600XL Home Computer.

1. Program Recorder.

2. 64K Memory Mod

4. Trak Ball™ Controller.

7. Disk Drive.



8. 80 Column Dot Matrix Printer.

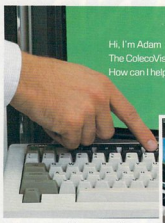
9. Letter Quality Printer.

Atari released its cost-reduced successors to the aging Atari 400/800, the 16K 600XL and the 64K 800XL, late in 1983. Due to issues in scaling up manufacturing, there were extremely limited quantities available during the Christmas season. In addition, Atari priced the new computers $50 higher than the Commodore 64 and VIC-20 respectively, a decision that effectively gifted Commodore the lion's share of Christmas sales, and seriously hindered the XL's adoption.

These factors, combined with the effects of the video-game crash, would lead Atari to sell off its home computer division to ousted Commodore CEO Jack Tramiel for little more than a Christmas carol.

As you might expect, the Atari 8-bit computers had some pretty decent arcade ports.

MEET ADAM.™ THE COLECOVISION® FAMILY COMPUTER SYSTEM.



Now, command the powers of a fully-networked 80K computer system. Adam. The power of a professional keyboard. A built-in word processor program. High speed digital data memory drive. Daisy wheel printer. And Super Game™ System. *All in one package.*

Not Adam. Adam actually adjusts to the way you think and "talks to you" with simple pictures and words.

So every member of the family can start working with Adam right away. For home, school and super arcade game play.

ADAM™ PERFORMS TASKS NO ORDINARY HOME COMPUTER CAN.

Adam has a built-in 80K memory, which expands to 144K. So your memory workspace is enormous, giving you more flexibility than any ordinary home computer.

But that's just the beginning. Adam components are actually six separate computers, all working in harmony with each other as a *network* called Adam Net.™

So, while one component is working on one task, other Adam components are automatically taking care of others.

ADAM™ GIVES YOU A PROFESSIONAL KEYBOARD.

The Adam keyboard is more advanced than those found in many of the more expensive computers.

The Adam keys are stepped and sculptured for maximum efficiency. There are 75 full travel keys, plus numeric keypad with joystick cursor control. And the keyboard attaches to the memory console with a coiled cable for comfortable and convenient use. So you can even type on your lap!

THE ADAM™ PRINTER GIVES YOU A HIGH QUALITY ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER AT HOME.

Adam comes with a letter-quality, daisy wheel printer (a peripheral that would cost you as much as the entire Adam system in many other home computers).

It's an 80 column printer that uses standard ribbon cartridges and interchangeable daisy wheels for different type styles. There's a 9½" wide carriage for either single sheets or fanfold paper. And the Adam printer types in both directions at a rate of 120 words per minute.

ADAM™ COMES WITH THREE SMART™ SOFTWARE PROGRAMS.

The SmartWriter™ Word Processor Program is *built into the system.* So you can edit and revise as you write making even the most difficult writing simple and fun. Adam rearranges words, sentences, even entire paragraphs.

And a SmartBasic™ digital data pack, which is source code compatible with AppleSoft® 8K Basic and the Buck Rogers™ Planet of Zoom™ Super Game pack are also included.

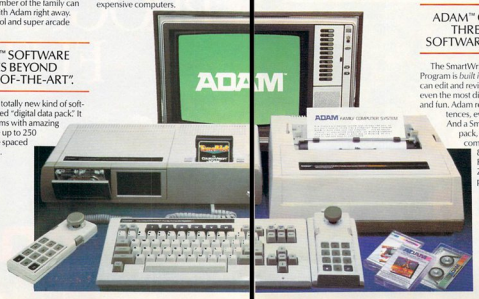
ADAM™ OFFERS YOU CP/M® COMPATIBLE PROGRAMS.

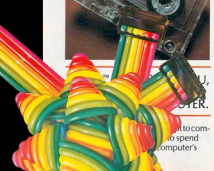
The most popular of the thousands of CP/M® compatible programs will be available on Adam digital data packs.

And soon there'll be additional Adam Smart Software for every member of the family. Like Financial Management, with the Adam integrated information management system. (We call it SmartFiler.™) Interactive learning programs, adventure games, strategy games, and more arcade favorites.

ADAM™ SOFTWARE GOES BEYOND "STATE-OF-THE-ART".

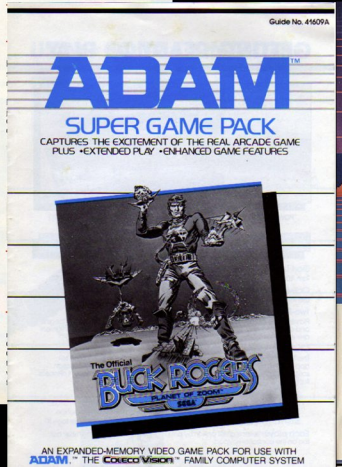
Adam uses a totally new kind of software, a highspeed "digital data pack." It can load programs with amazing speed and store up to 250 pages of double spaced typewritten text.





Is it a computer? Is it a video-game console? Is it a typewriter? Who knows!

Coleco's Adam computer -- essentially a ColecoVision with added computery bits -- was powered by its large, heavy printer, a poor design decision that led to many a dead Adam, and has significantly discouraged collectors from acquiring these machines.



AN EXPANDED-MEMORY VIDEO GAME PACK FOR USE WITH ADAM™ THE COLECOVISION® FAMILY COMPUTER SYSTEM

Buck Rogers, Planet of Zoom. Your one chance to defeat the toughest enemy of all. Time.

If you've played Buck Rogers, Planet of Zoom in the arcades, you've had a taste of what space chase action is all about. Now maybe you're ready for something even better.

A home game that takes the arcade version and makes it even faster, more challenging, more fun.

You'll battle your way through 3-D space. Maneuver through bullet-firing magnetic poles and alien saucers. Shoot it out with hopping droids and enemy fighters until you face the ultimate challenge, the mother ship.

But time is not on your side. You have to be fast to destroy the mother ship. If you're too slow, kiss mother goodbye.

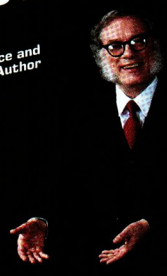
Look for Buck Rogers at your local store. But hurry. This is one game that's really moving fast.

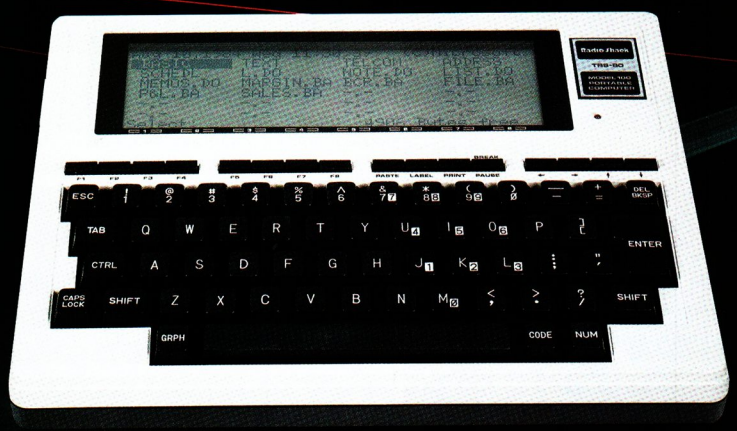
Made for: Atari® 400™ Atari® 800™ Atari® Home Computers with 16K RAM and VIC-20™ Texas Instruments 99/4A™

SEGA

"Radio Shack has redefined the concept of personal computing with its TRS-80® Model 100 Portable Computer"

—Isaac Asimov
Renowned Science and Science Fiction Author





Tandy's Color Computer 2 would improve on the original in a number of ways, abandoning the silver case and chiclet keyboard, and doubling the maximum RAM to 64K.

Tandy also introduced the TRS-80 Model 100, which with its large 40 character by 8 line screen quickly became popular with journalists, who could file their stories remotely using the built-in 300 baud modem. Tandy would sell over 6 million Model 100s.

Timex would release its authorized "clone" of the Sinclair ZX Spectrum in 1983, but due to a few changes, it wasn't compatible with binary Spectrum programs, severely restricting its software library. It also, unlike what the advertisement here would have you believe, only had 48K of RAM (the other 24K was ROM; including it in the total memory was quite unconventional!)

Timex Computer Corporation (the North American arm) would fold in early 1984.

Now from Timex...a powerful new computer.

72K COLOR SOUND UNDER $200*

Timex introduces a second generation of home computers designed with one purpose in mind: to be useful.
With 72K on-board memory, it's powerful enough to solve more problems in your home. Entertain you with brilliant color graphics and 8-octave sound.
Plus do word processing in addition to spread-sheet functions.

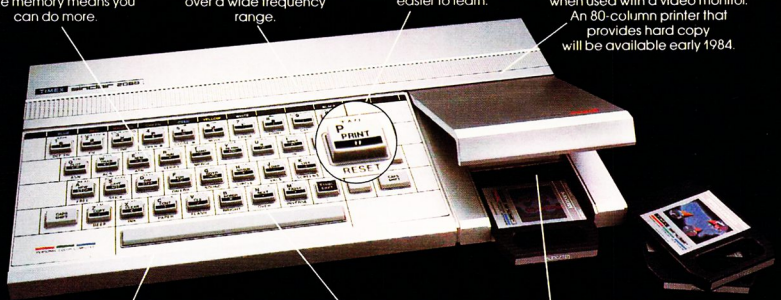
And while it does more, it does it with even greater simplicity.
Its one-touch keyboard means you don't have to know typing. New Timex Command Cartridges can be used without any knowledge of programming.
Finally. A home computer you can really use in your home: the Timex Sinclair 2068.

72K on-board memory. More memory than any computer in its class. And more memory means you can do more.

8-octave sound. Can be used to create four sounds simultaneously over a wide frequency range.

Unique one-touch entry. Requires no typing skills; makes programming easier to learn.

Word processing capability. This program provides a 64-character wide screen when used with a video monitor. An 80-column printer that provides hard copy will be available early 1984.



Sleek new compact design. Fits easily on any desk or table.

Raised typewriter keyboard. With full-travel keys is based on world's most popular electronic keyboard design.

Timex Command Cartridges. Provide faster, easier program loading, take up less space.

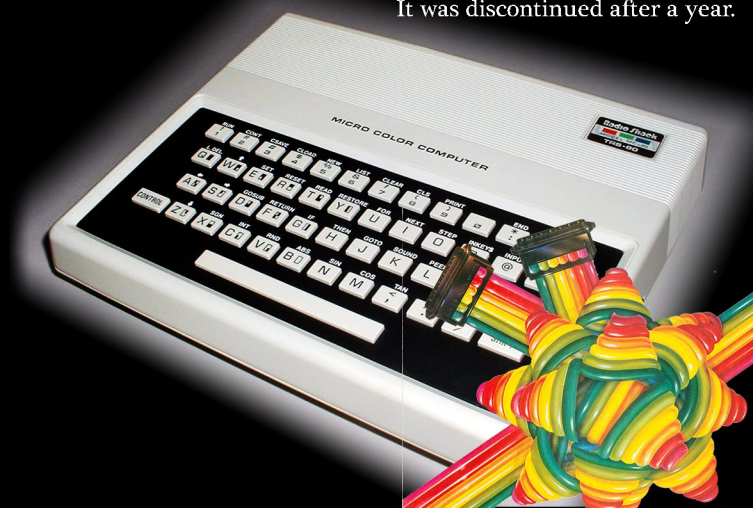
TIMEX SINCLAIR 2068

To purchase the Timex Sinclair 2068 computer see your local dealer, or call 1-800-24-T-I-M-E-X.

* Suggested retail price

© Timex Computer Corporation, 1983

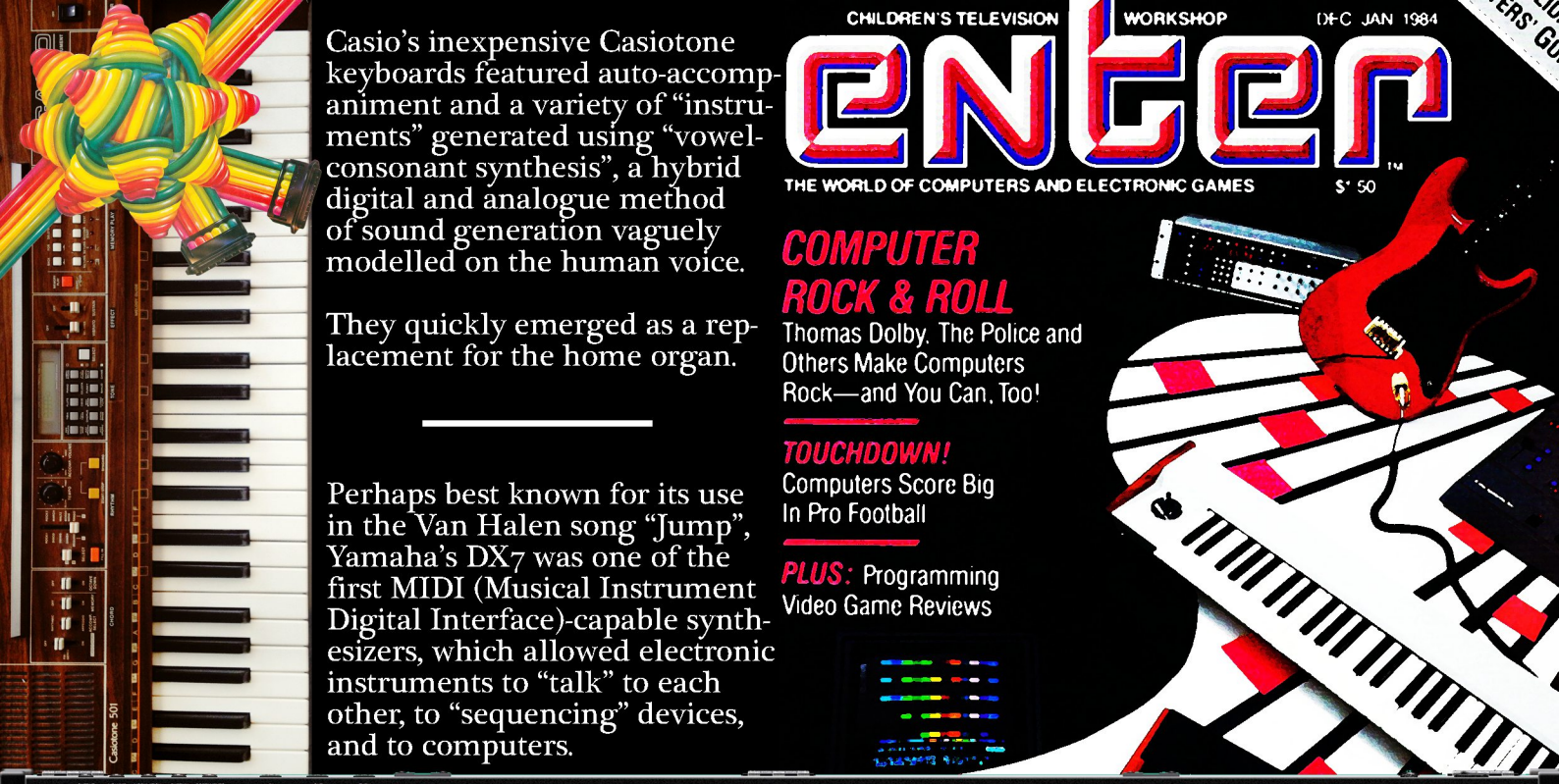
While Tandy's Model 100 was a hit, the low-cost 4KB MC-10 was a miss. It was discontinued after a year.

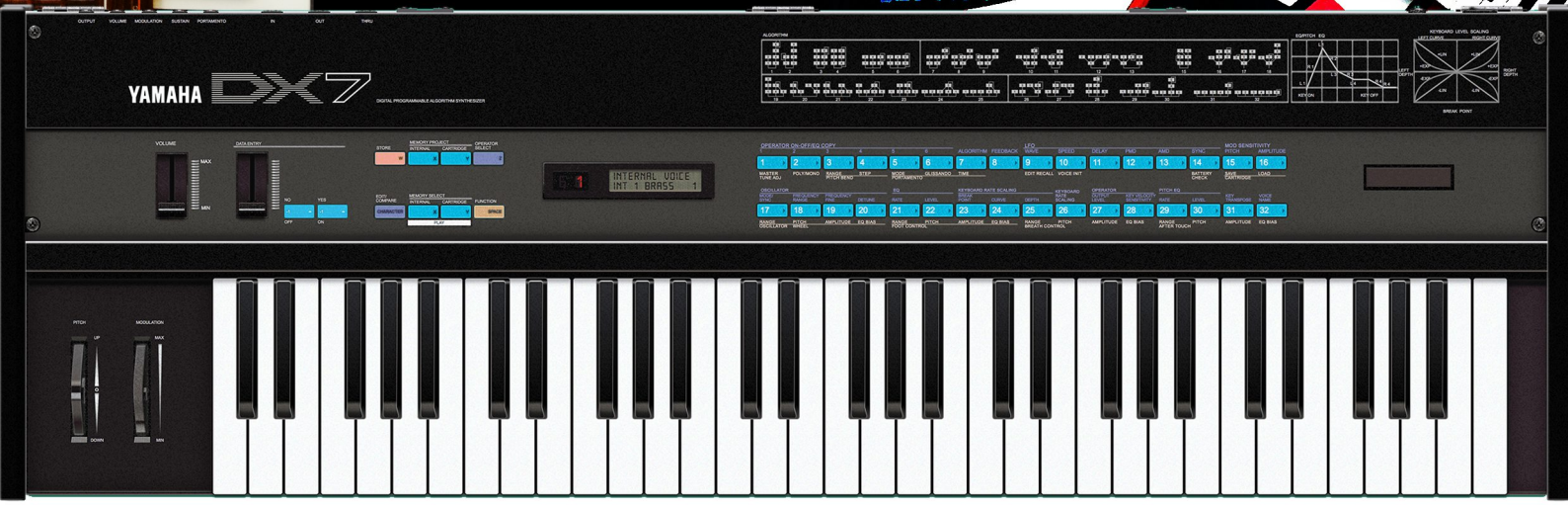


Casio's inexpensive Casiotone keyboards featured auto-accompaniment and a variety of "instruments" generated using "vowel-consonant synthesis", a hybrid digital and analogue method of sound generation vaguely modelled on the human voice.

They quickly emerged as a replacement for the home organ.

Perhaps best known for its use in the Van Halen song "Jump", Yamaha's DX7 was one of the first MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface)-capable synthesizers, which allowed electronic instruments to "talk" to each other, to "sequencing" devices, and to computers.





The first Casio G-Shock watch was designed to be waterproof, and drop-proof to 10 metres. It also had a stopwatch.

Similarly, the cordless phone freed people up to wander their houses, rather than be tethered to their landline.

Previously all you could do was get a longer handset cord, which could trip up your family members, or get chewed by your dog.

The Audio-Technica Sound Burger attempted to make records portable via a battery-powered, compact design, but it only worked on stable, flat surfaces and so its value over other portable turntables was questionable.

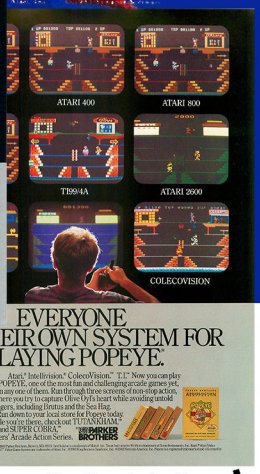
It did, however, have a really cool name!

Prior to the Sony Betacam, video cameras needed to be connected to an external tape recorder, which limited their portability.

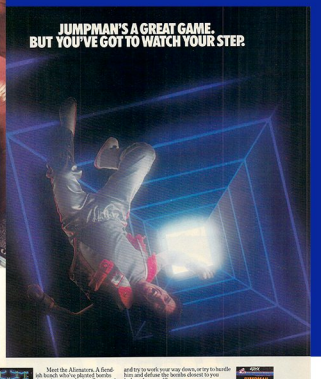
By developing a new videotape format that could fit inside the camera body, Sony freed up camera-people to wander.

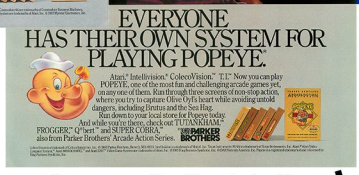
Atari hedged its bets by releasing its newest arcade conversions for both its consoles and its home computers, but it would be too little, too late. By mid-next year, Atari's home computer and console divisions would be sold.

Jumpman was a huge hit for Epyx, propelling it to $10m in sales in 1983. Monopoly manufacturer Parker Brothers, on the other hand, would soon exit the video-game market, put off by the video-game crash.



With thirty different levels, Jumpman set a new bar for platform games.





Known far more for its pinball machines, Q-Bert was Gottlieb's only successful video-game.

Unlike conventional racing games, in Pitstop you could blow your tires or run out of gas.

Congo Bongo was a commercial failure, and widely panned as the worst game of 1983.

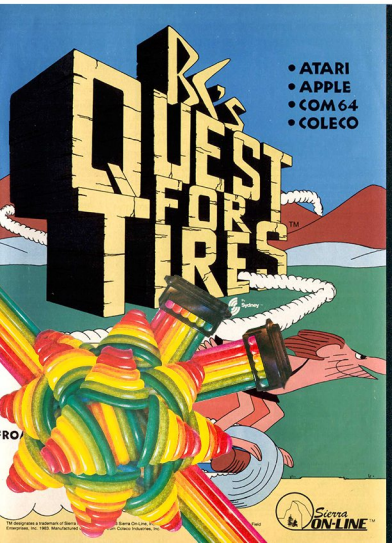
Donkey Kong was originally meant to be a Popeye game, but Nintendo couldn't get the licenses in time. If they had, there would have never been a Mario, nor Mario Brothers!

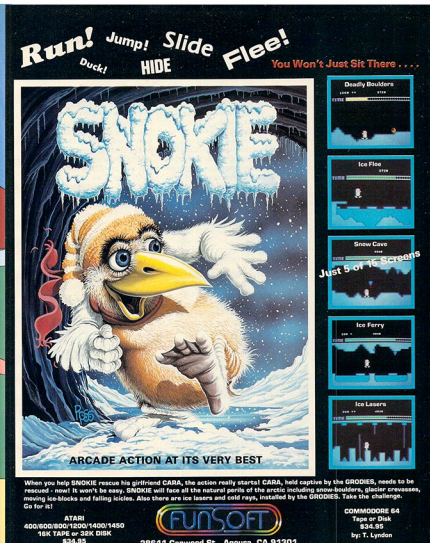
Based on the BC comic strip, BC's Quest for Tires would win a number of awards for its novel gameplay and cartoon-like presentation.

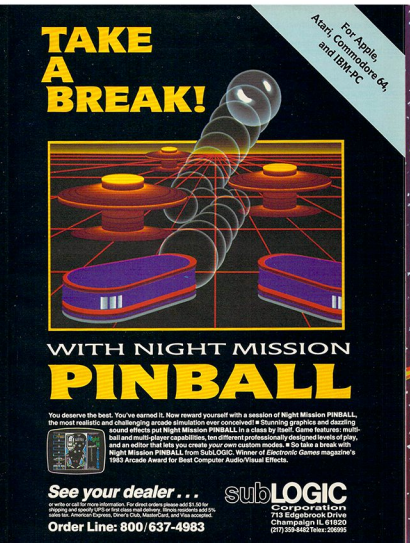
Like BC, Snokie has you trying to rescue your girlfriend, except Snokie is a "snowbird" (not a penguin!) and the setting is the Arctic.

Famous for its flight simulator, Sublogic released this "pinball simulator" with a flying theme. You could adjust almost40 different game mechanics.

Founded by Jeff Minter (aka "Yak the Hairy") Llamasoft produced a number of games starring llamas, camels and sheep.

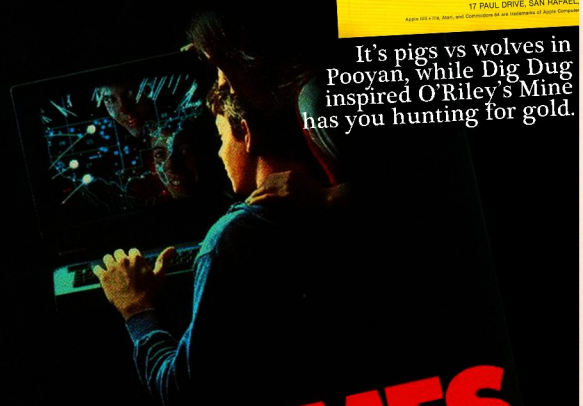






Broderbund attempted to make repetitive labour fun with Gumball, but the public didn't agree, and the game was a flop.

It's pigs vs wolves in Pooyan, while Dig Dug inspired O'Riley's Mine has you hunting for gold.



WARGAMES

Inspired by video-games, the 1983 film Wargames featured an artificially intelligent supercomputer triggered into trying to start a nuclear war by a game-seeking hacker.

Sargon II was the sequel to the popular chess game. It was better at playing chess than most dedicated chess computers (or players!)

"Dot addressable" printers allowed for much finer graphical output, required for software such as The Print Shop.

The PaperClip word-processor used a "dongle" that plugged into the joystick port as a form of copy protection. It held a digital "key" that was used to decrypt the program.

Batteries Included also made a database called "Delphi's Oracle" (no, not that Oracle....)

PaperClip™
Professional Word Processor
For Commodore 64 and CBM/SuperPet

"Absolutely the most versatile word processor I have seen." *Midnight Software Gazette* March/April, 1983

"...a very powerful word processor, with so many features that most people only need a fraction of them." *COMPUTE!* April, 1983

So easy to use that even novices can get professional results.

PaperClip has every standard word processor function, plus many exclusive features, including horizontal scrolling for charts and wide reports, up to 250 columns, column moves, alphanumeric sorts and arithmetic. Works with 80 column cards and every popular printer, with instant printer set-up. Professional handling of form letters, mail list merge, and large documents.

Complete, professional and easy to use. No where else will you find PaperClip's capabilities at this breakthrough price.

$125

Delphi's Oracle NEW!
Professional Data Base Management
For Commodore 64 and PET/CBM

Delphi's Oracle is a powerful information handling program that allows you to enter, retrieve and update data with incredible speed and flexibility.

• Large record size (over 8000 characters) • Up to 99 fields and 9 display pages per record • Includes report writer and mail label printing • Design your own forms on the screen or on printed reports

Delphi's Oracle brings power and versatility usually found only in mainframe or minicomputer systems, with provision for safeguarding accurate data entry, and excellent flexibility in searching for records.

$150

BATTERIES INCLUDED

Batteries Included, U.S.A. Los Angeles, California (213) 556-2878	Software Distributors Culver City, California Cal: (800) 252-4025	R & S Micro Services Minneapolis, Minnesota (612) 566-7566	CSI Distributors, Inc. Spring Valley, New York (914) 352-6700
CBM Systems Van Nuys, California (213) 904-0111	Software International Upland, California (714) 981-7640	City Software Milwaukee, Wisconsin (414) 277-1220	Bob Neff & Assoc Greenville, South Carolina (803) 269-9540
Kapri International Sun Valley, California (213) 765-2774	Lightware Computer Yakima, Washington (509) 575-5507	AB Computers Colmar, Pennsylvania (215) 822-7727	Batteries Included Toronto, Ontario (416) 596-1405

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THE BUGS
MAL FUNCTION
T. HITCH
SNAG JNR
SCREAMING FOUL UP
RAM
.. AND I HOPE YOU HAVE LEARNT YOUR LESSON. THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT ...
THE BUGS ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM THE BASHING OUR PROGRAMMER GAVE THEM IN THE LAST ISSUE ...!!
MAYBE WE DID GO A BIT TOO FAR!
... COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF YOU HAD NOT DESTRUCTIVELY INTERFERED WITH THAT CHESS PROGRAM. BLAH! BLAH! NAG! BLAH! BLAH! BLAH!
.. I SUGGEST WE DONT MESS UP HIS NEXT PROGRAM!
WOW!
I'VE JUST GOT THE MOST ADVANCED COMPUTER MUSIC MAKING CASSETTE AS A PRESSY!
.. I AGREE BUT, ONLY UNTIL CHRISTMAS IS OVER AFTER ALL, THERE NO FUN LIVING IN THIS COMPUTER IF WE HAVE TO BEHAVE IN IT!
OK!
OUR PROGRAMMER GETS TO WORK!
PLINKY PLONK!
FANTASTIC! A FEW MORE HOURS AND I'LL HAVE CREATED MY GLORIOUS SYMPHONY IN 48K ...!!
HOURS PASS
PLONKETTY PLINK!
.. I'LL BE HAILED AS ANOTHER BYTE HOVEN. HEH! HEH!
THE BUGS ARE NOT IMPRESSED!
PLONK! PLUNK!
GROAN! IT'S TERRIBLE. SOMEONE STOP HIM!
YERK!
SEEING AS IT'S CHRISTMAS LET'S HELP HIM OUT WITH THIS PROGRAM!
HMMM! OK THEN, JUST A LITTLE IMPROVEMENT!
AT LAST!
WAGGLE!
STAND BY FOR SQUEALS OF DELIGHT FELLOW BUGS!
.. WITH THIS LITTLE DIGIT, I SHALL LAUNCH A MILESTONE IN MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT UPON THE WORLD!
JINGLE BELLS! JINGLE BELLS!
SNARL!
CHRISTMAS OR NOT THIS CALLS FOR A GRADE 'A' BUG BASHING!
THERES NO PLEASING SOME PEOPLE!

Thanks to you,

paleotronic

is coming...

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BYTE December 1983
Antic December 1983
Compute! December 1983
Compute's Gazette December 1983
Computers and Video Games December 1983
Electronic Fun with Computers and Games December 1983
Enter December / January 1983
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Video Games December 1983
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NEXT UP...

1984